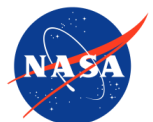


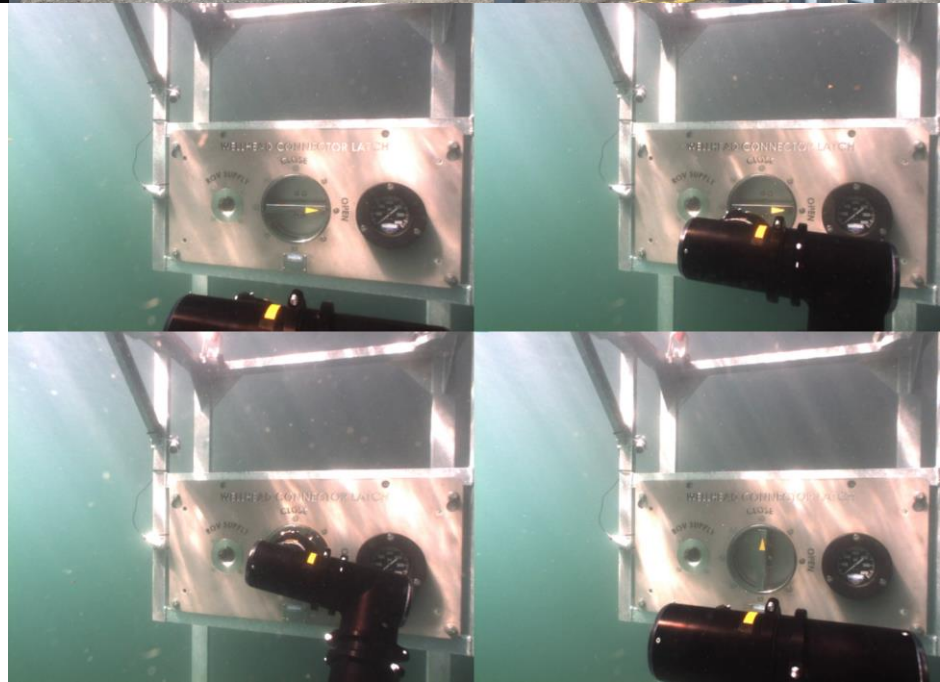
# Development of a Robotic Limb for Underwater Mobile Manipulation

J. Koch, T. Pailevanian, M. Garrett, C. Yahnker,  
R. Detry, D. Levine, M. Gildner

Email: [matthew.gildner@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:matthew.gildner@jpl.nasa.gov)

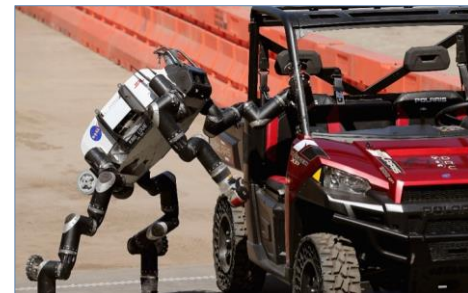
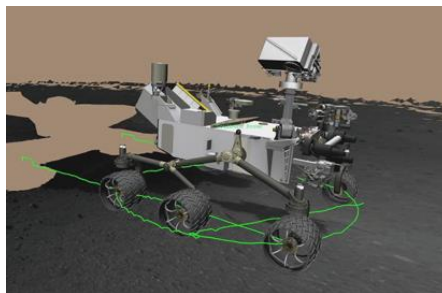


**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology



# Motivation

Develop **manipulation technologies** to *extend* the **effectiveness, functionality** and **accessibility** of ROV Operations by adapting technologies from **Mars Rovers** and other **JPL robotic manipulation systems**.



## Live 3D Scene Reconstruction of Robot Workspaces

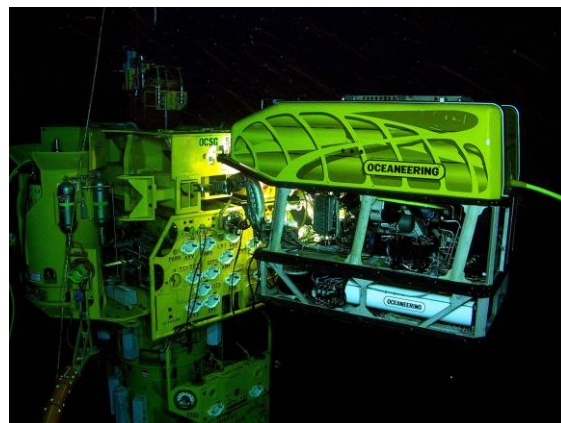
- Increased operator situational awareness
- Vision in the loop operations

## Supervised Autonomy for Intent-Based Operations

- Point → Click → Simulate → Execute Workflows

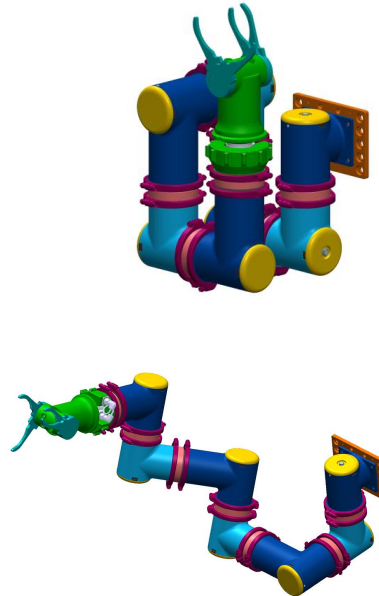
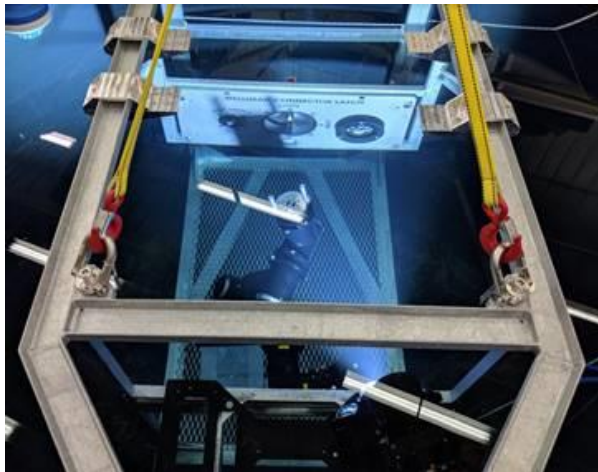
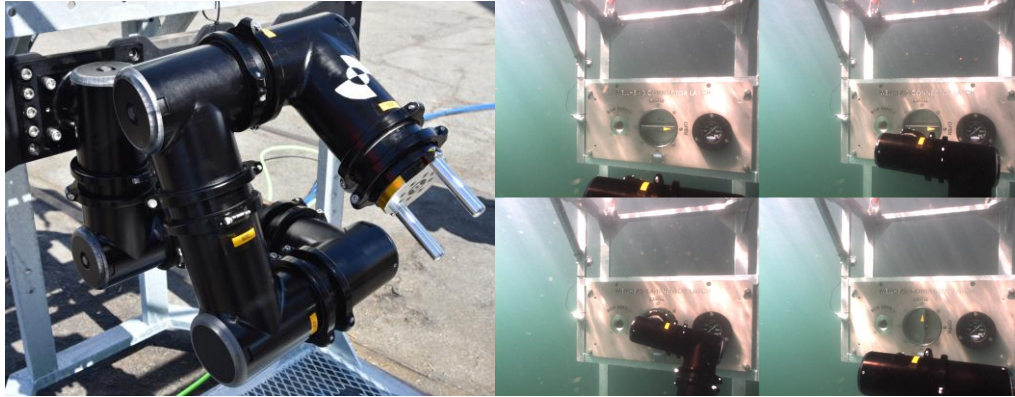
## Dexterous Limb Hardware Architectures

- Low integration required on host vehicle
- Deploy on wider range of vehicle classes
- Mobility as manipulation





# AquaSimian Limb



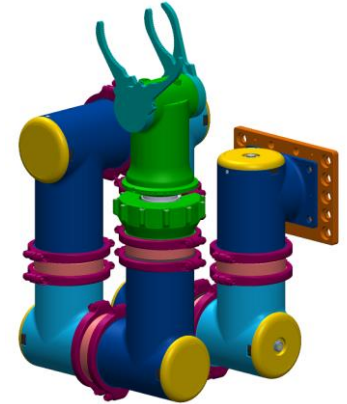
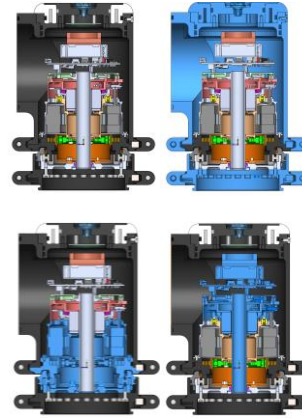
## Specifications

Reach:	1.25m
Lift at Full Extension:	20kg
Max Speed at Gripper:	2 m/s
Functions:	10
Control:	FWD Kinematic Position Ctrl 6-Axis Force/Torque Ctrl
Limb Power:	100V / 50A
Telemetry:	EtherCAT / RS-485
Weight in air:	40kg
Weight in water:	15kg

# Outline

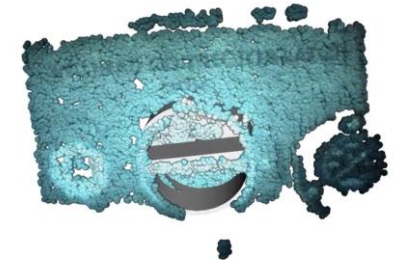
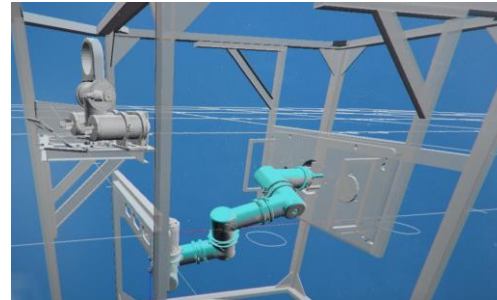
## Hardware Design

Actuator, Limb Architecture



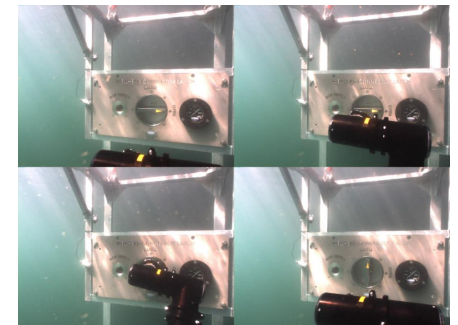
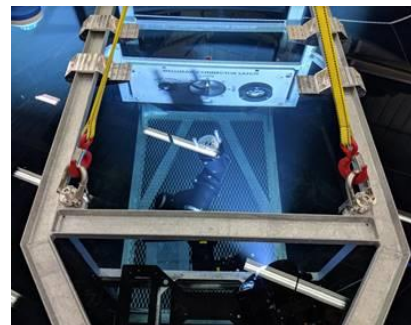
## Concept of Operations

Operator Interface, Automation, Behaviors



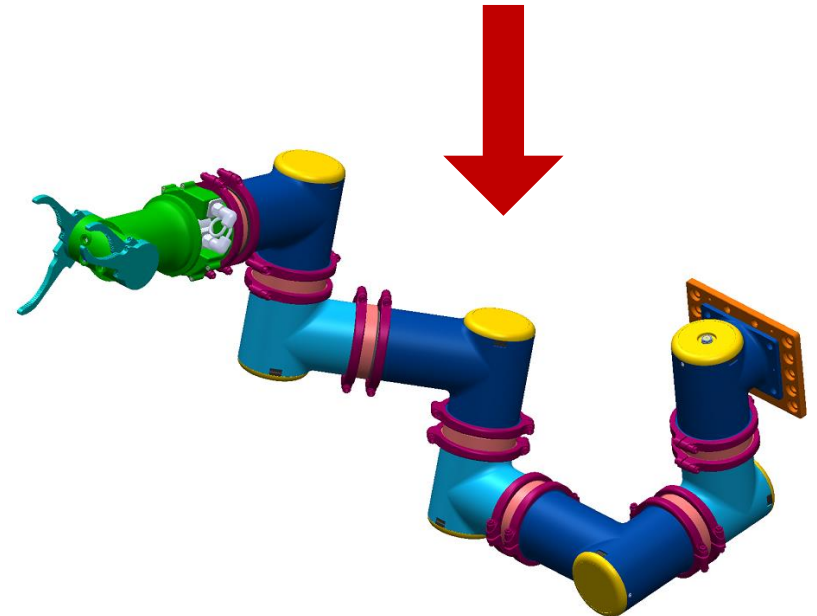
## System Testing

Laboratory, Field



# Hardware Design Objectives

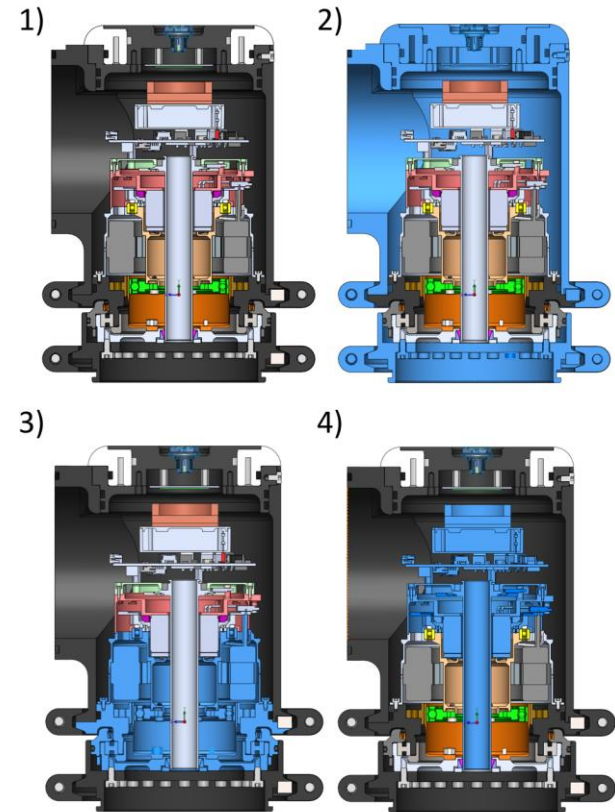
- Generalized, Modular, All-Electric Design
- 7 Degrees of Freedom
- Absolute Joint Position Sensing
- 3 Degree of Freedom End Effector with F/T Sensing
- Human–Scale Reach and Force Application
- 360°+ Joint Rotation
- Compartmental, Vacuum Sealing at 30m Depth
- Leverage Heritage of Robosimian System



# S-PRIME Actuator

Sealed - Performance Robotic Integrated Modular Electric

- Developed around 100V Brushless DC Frameless Motor
- 160:1 Harmonic Geartrain with Cross-Roller Bearing on Output
- Embedded Elmo Gold Whistle Ethercat Motor Controller
- Custom Actuator Motherboard PCB
  - Brake Driving
  - Position Sensor Comms
  - Pressure, Temperature, Humidity Sensing
  - Actuator Serial Bus Comms
- Magnetic Brake
- Teflon Rotary Dynamic Seal and O-ring static seals



1) S-Prime Actuator 2) Housing  
3) Drivetrain 4) Electronics

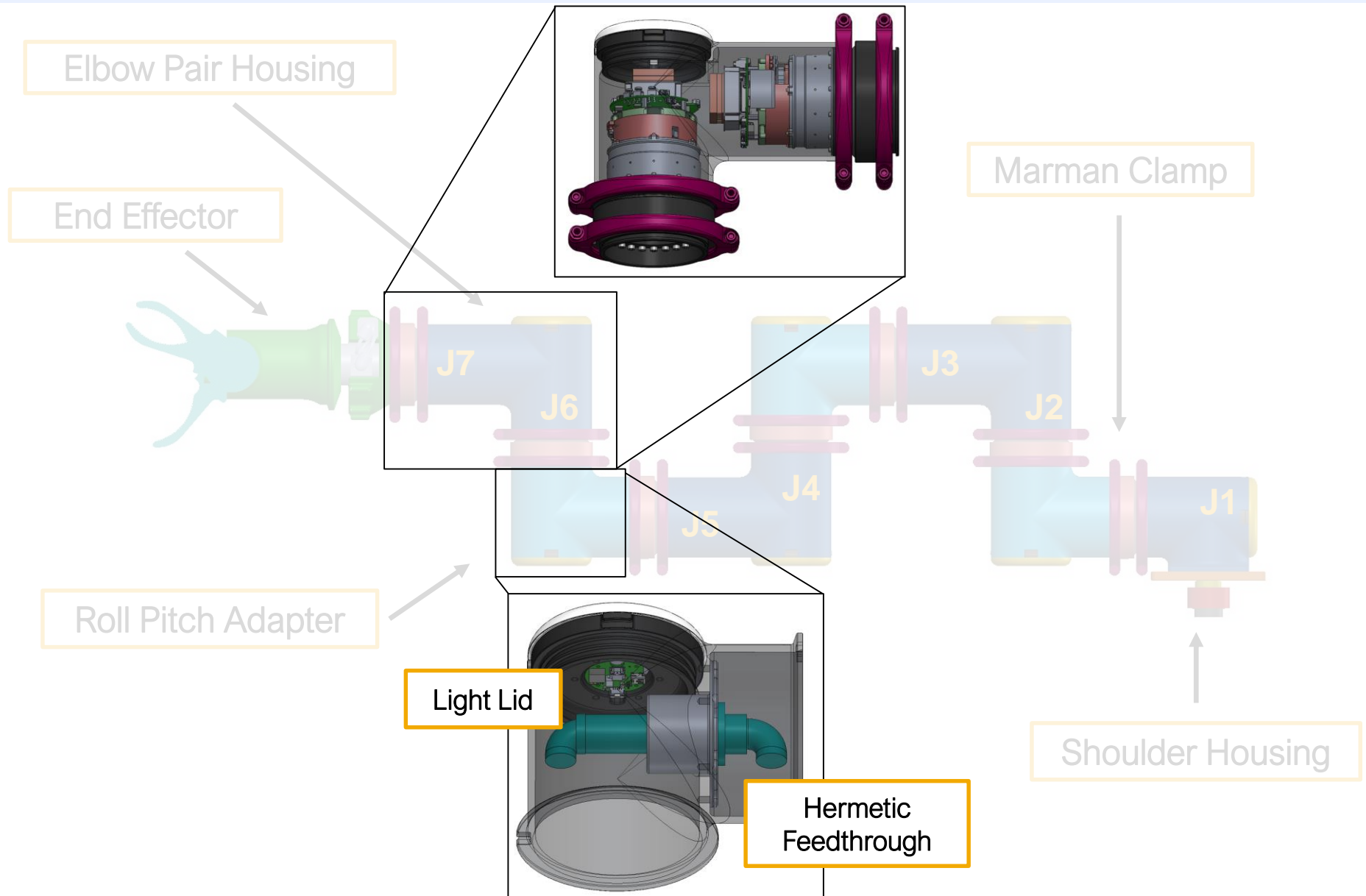


# S-PRIME Actuator: Spec Sheet

Sealed - Performance Robotic Integrated Modular Electric

Parameter	Value
Size	225 mm (L) x 120 mm (Dia)
Depth Rating	30m
Weight (air)	4.2 kg
Weight (water)	1.6 Kg
Max Torque	285 Nm
Max Speed	135 deg/s
Braking	220 Nm
Power	100V, 14A
Communication	Ethercat, RS-485

# AquaSimian Limb: Architecture





# AquaSimian Limb: Environment Monitoring

## Purpose

- Monitor internal housing state to detect for leaks
- Enable auto e-stop in case of leak

## Sensors

- Pressure, temp, humidity

## Process

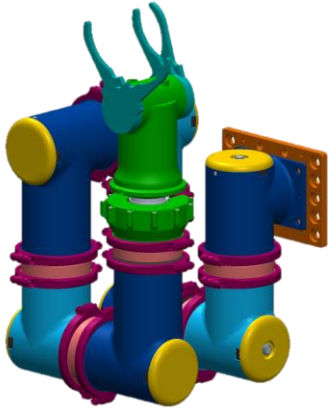
- Vacuum and dry purge each sealed volume through valve on housing lids
- Query actuator motherboards sensors over serial bus
- Provide visual display of sensor readings compared to thresholds
- Trigger auto-estop if loss of telemetry



# AquaSimian Limb: Serviceability

## Stow

- Compact stow configuration for transport and vehicle integration



2ft X 2ft X2ft

## Actuator Servicing

- 2-Bolt Marman Clamp interface for actuator removal
- Lid for actuator electronics access

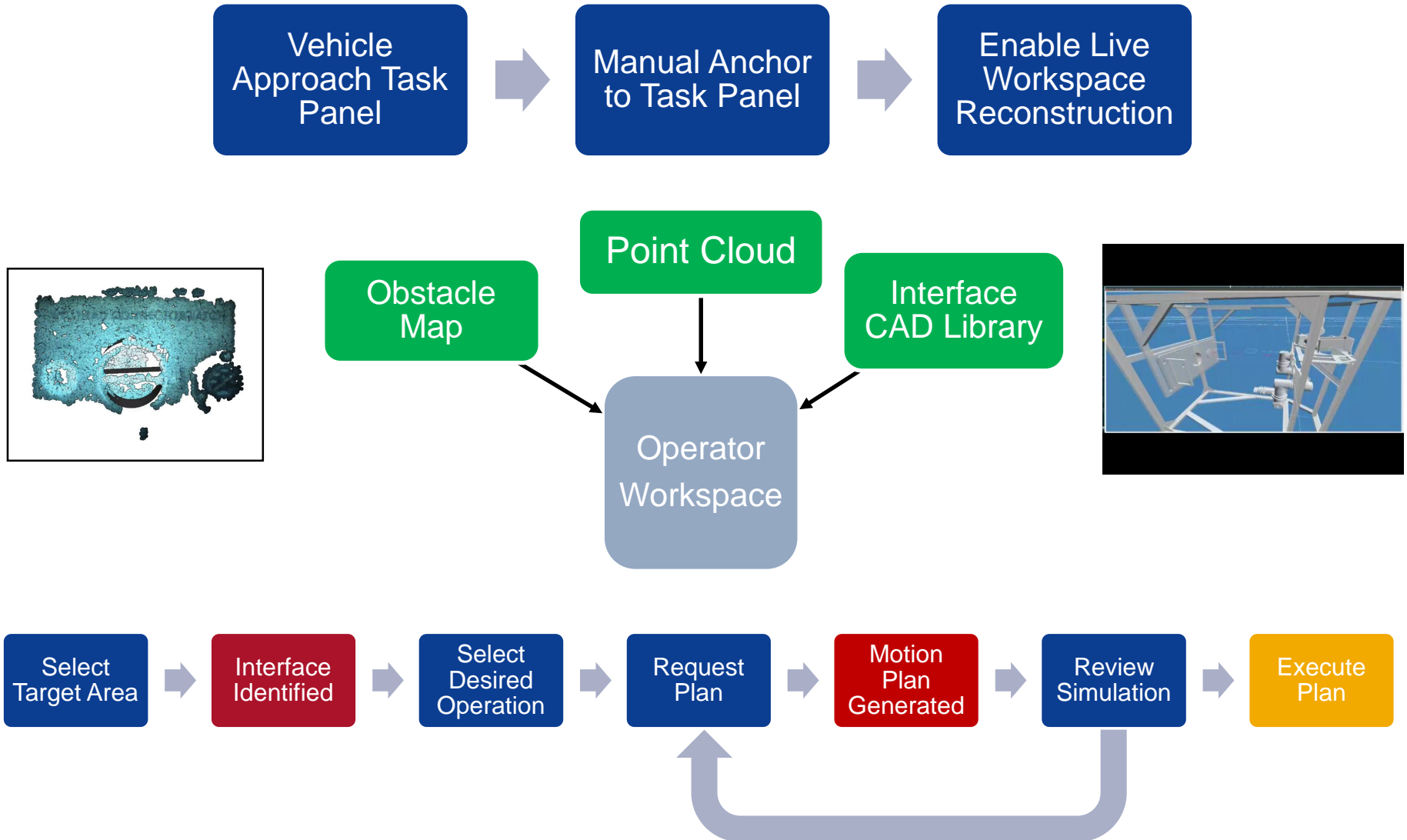


## Light Lid

- Lid embedded with LED Array and Controller
- Actuator State
- Leak Diagnostics



# Concept of Operations



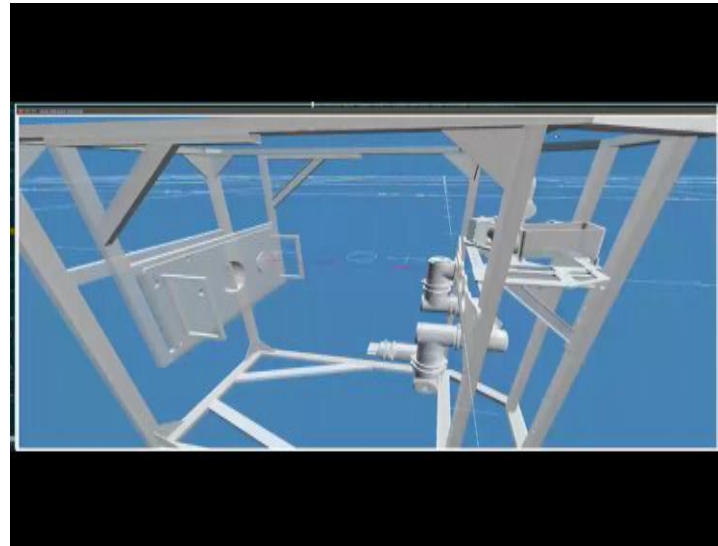
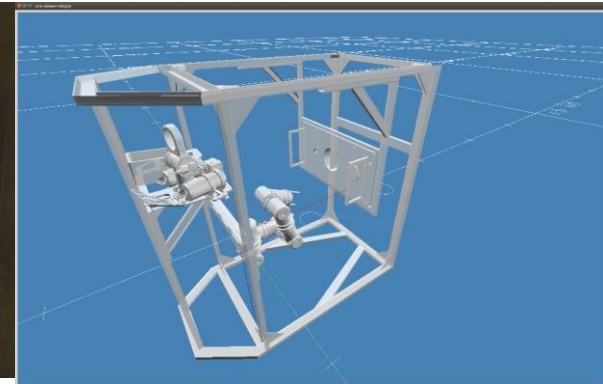
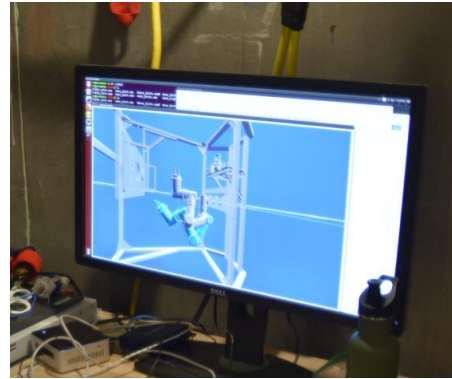
# Concept of Operations: Control

## Operator Computer (Intel NUC)

- Operator Control Interface
  - State Visualization
  - Behavior Selection
  - Move Preview
- Module Control
  - Start/stop of control modules
  - Software EStop

## Limb Computer (Intel NUC)

- Trajectory Generator
- Motor Control Interface
- Environmental Monitoring

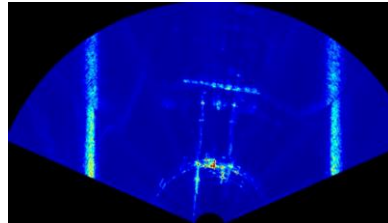




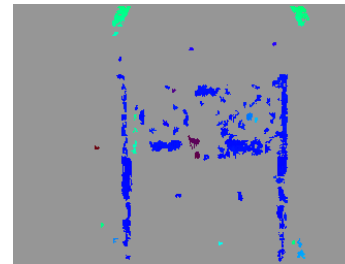
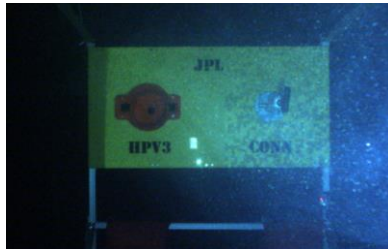
# Concept of Operations: Perception



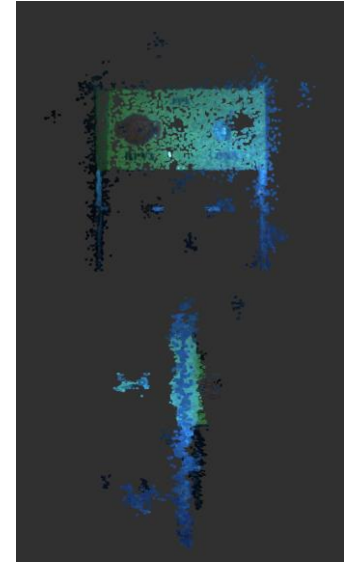
Sensor Head



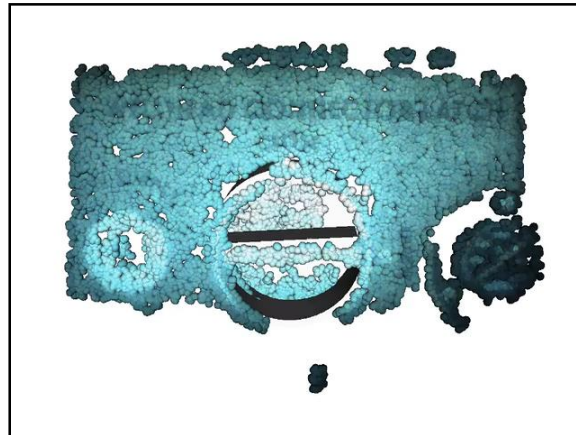
Raw Images



Raw Pointclouds



Fused Pointcloud



CAD Fit

# System Testing: Lab

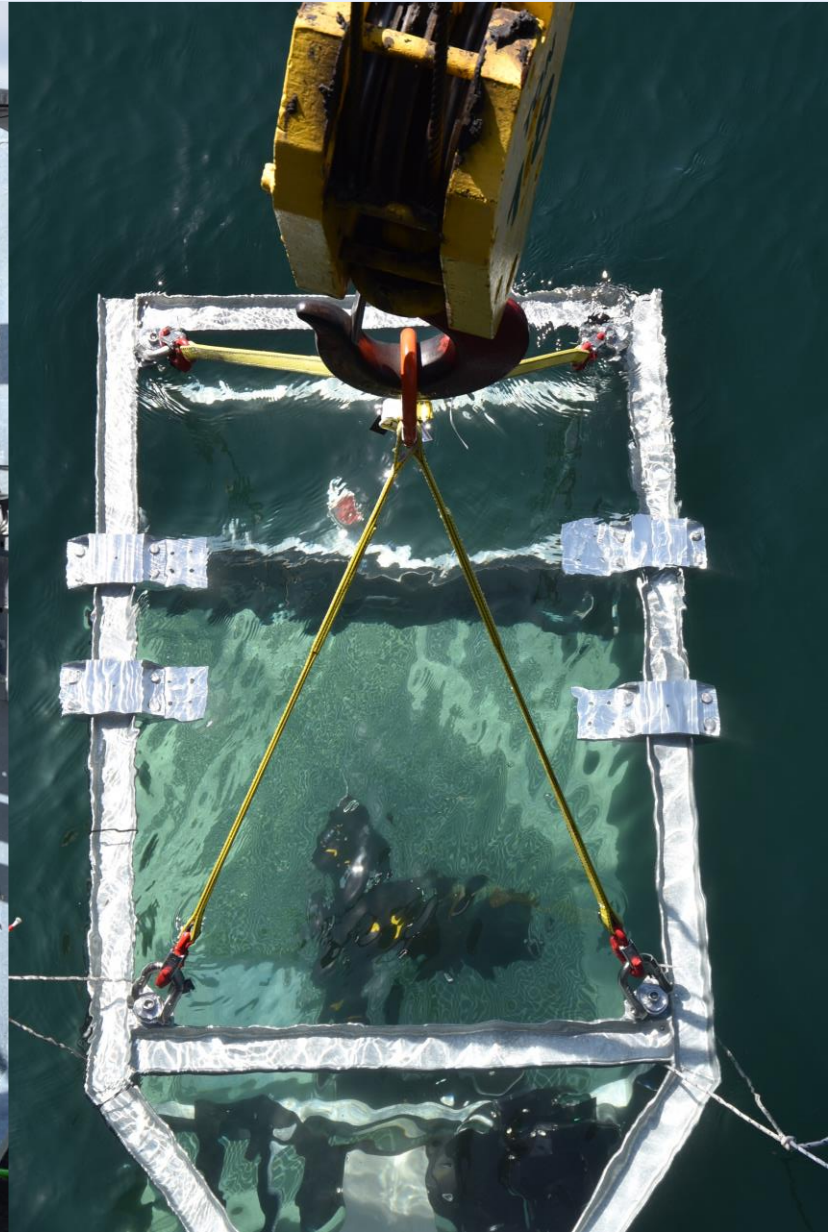
Limb Moving Through Hand-Eye  
Calibration Postures



Paddle Valve Turn with Static End  
Effector



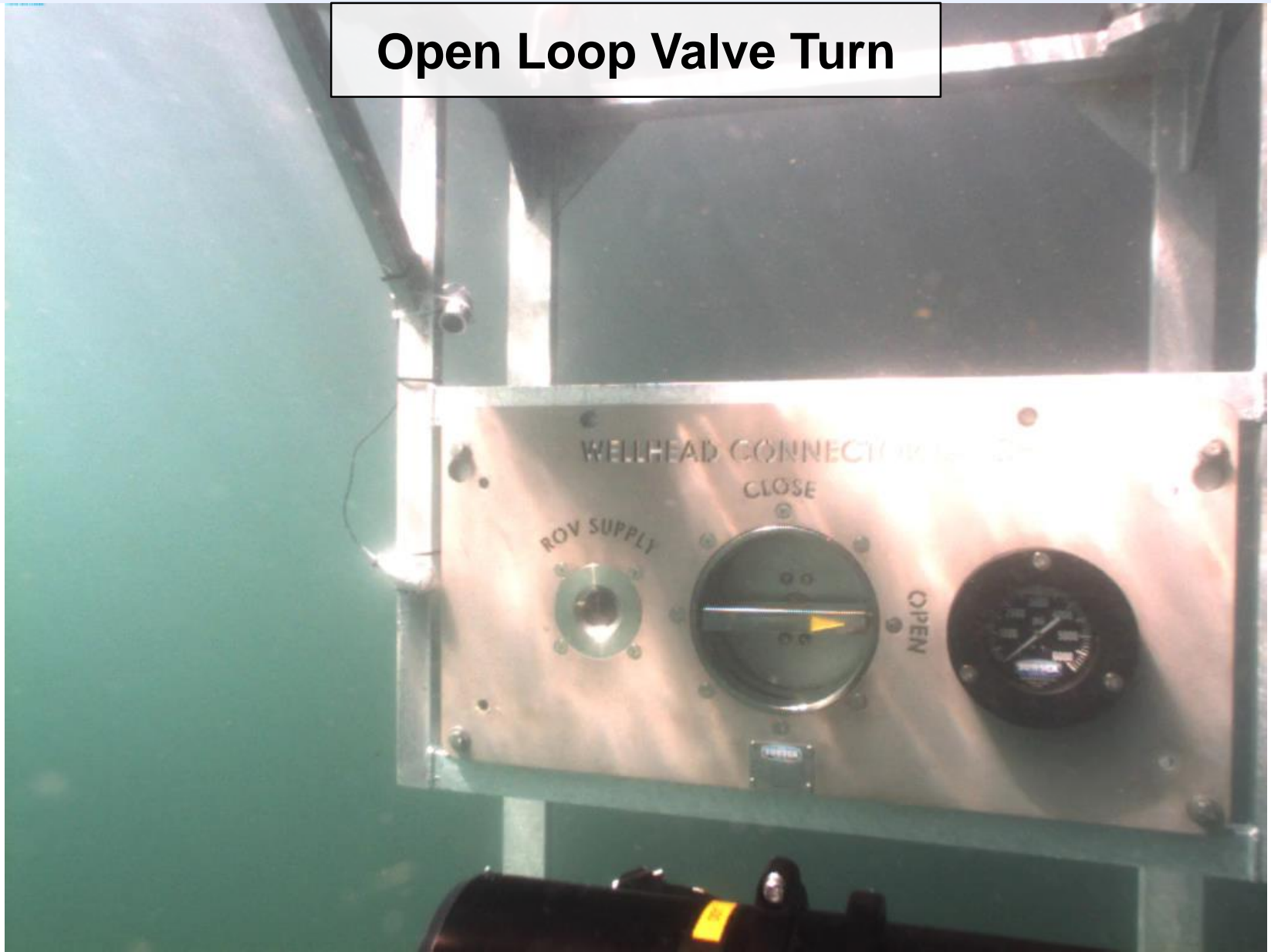
# System Testing: Field





# System Testing: Field

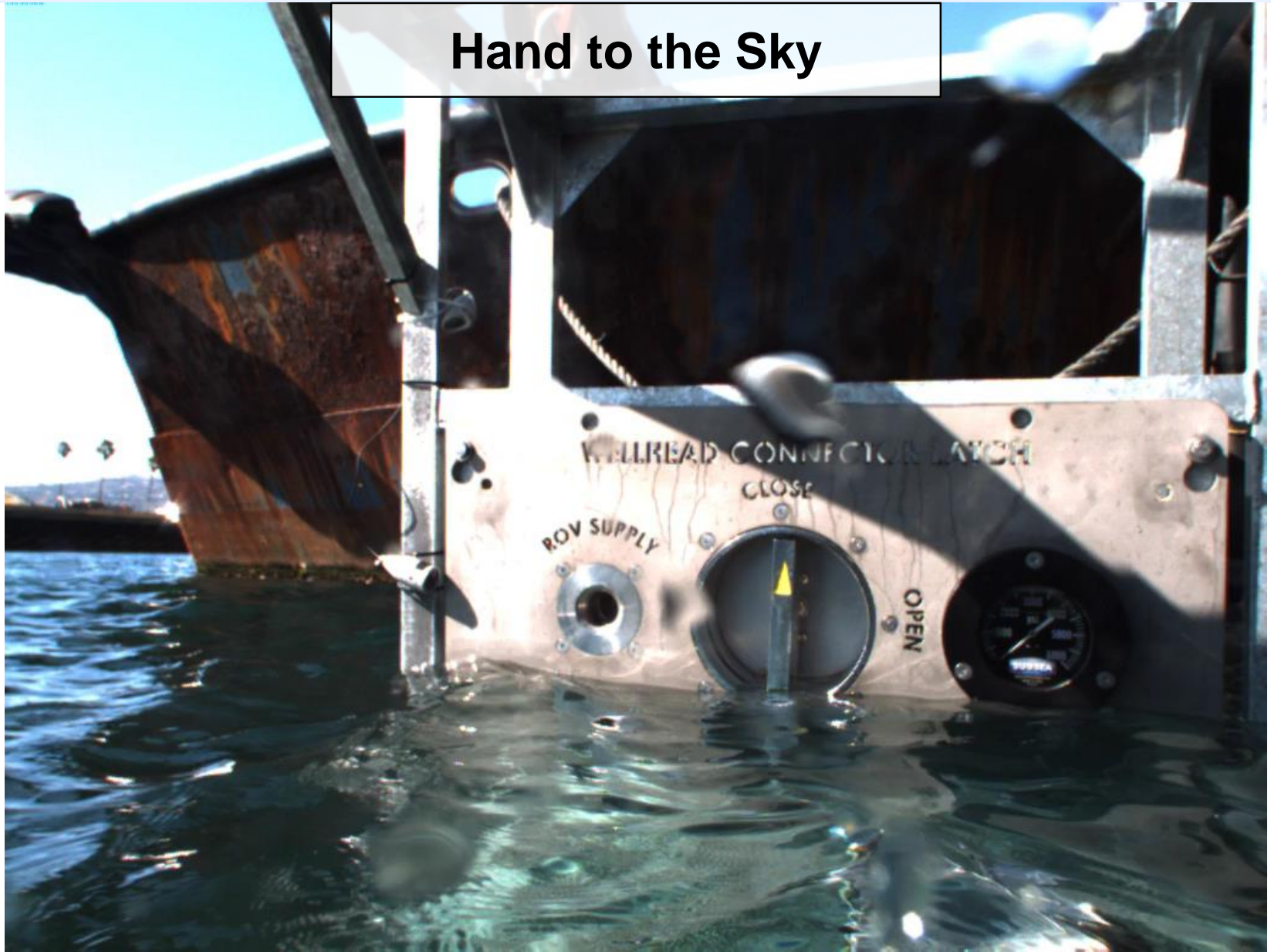
**Open Loop Valve Turn**





# System Testing: Field

**Hand to the Sky**



# Future Work

## Hardware

- 3 DoF End Effector with 6-axis F/T Sensor

## Software

- CAD fitting in operator workflow
- Force in the loop insertion behavior

## Demonstration

- Closed loop **Hot Stab Insertion**
- Closed loop **Valve Turn**



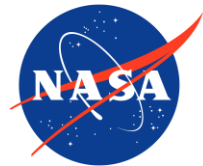
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